

Please cancel claims 11-12, without prejudice.

Please cancel claim 10 and amend claim 1 to read as follows including the changes shown in the attached marked-up version:

1. (Amended) A wood composite material that is an oriented strand board comprising:

(i) an organophosphorus ester compound, (ii) a polymer binder resin, and (iii) about 0.5 wt% to about 2.5 wt% wax, wherein said composite material achieves a limiting oxygen index in the range of about 26 to about 40, an average thickness swelling in the range of about 7% to about 15 %, and said composite material has a fire spread rating of greater than about 25 and less than about 75.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New Claim) A wood composite material comprising:

(i) an organophosphorus ester compound, and (ii) an isocyanate polymer binder resin.

22. (New Claim) The wood composite material according to claim 21, wherein the wood composite material is selected from the group consisting of plywood, particleboard, flakeboard, and oriented strand board.

23. (New Claim) The wood composite material according to claim 21, wherein the wood composite material is selected from the group consisting of flakeboard and oriented strand board.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 21-23 are pending in the present application. By the present amendment, Claims 13-20 have been cancelled, without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications, in response to the Restriction Requirement first imposed by the Examiner in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative on September 25, 2002, and reiterated in the Office Action of Paper No. 3. By the present amendment, the subject matter of claim 10 has been incorporated into claim 1, and claim 10 canceled. Claim 1 has also been amended so that it specifically recites a type of a wood composite material, oriented strand board. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, at least, in the claims as originally filed.